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# Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 15 JUNE 1976

COUNTRY: VIETNAM/USSR

DOI: LATE APRIL 1976

SUBJECT:

ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. ON POW/MIA AND AID ISSUES AND DESIRE FOR U.S. OIL TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE; SOVIET OIL EXPLORATION IN NORTH VIETNAM

1.

SAID

IN LATE APRIL 1976 THAT THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) WILL NOT ACCEPT AS A PRECONDITION TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES (U.S.) GOVERNMENT THE TASK OF SEARCHING FOR MISSING PRISONERS OF WAR (POW) AND THOSE MISSING IN ACTION (MIA).

SAID THE DRV CONSIDERS THE POW/MIA ISSUE A PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT JUST ONE OF MANY ISSUES IN THE OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS.

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(classification)

THE VIETNAMESE WOULD LIKE BOTH PARTIES TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE AND NEGOTIATE ON ALL ISSUES, AND THE DRV IS WILLING TO DO THIS. BOTH THE POW/MIA ISSUE AND RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE WOULD BE INCLUDED.

THE DRV IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S. AT ANY TIME; HE SAID THE DRV DOES NOT HAVE ANY TIMETABLE ESTABLISHED, HOWEVER. COMMENT:

2. ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE DRV CLEARLY EXPECTS U.S. AID TO ASSIST IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH VIETNAM.

UNDERSTANDS THAT U.S. POLICY HAS SUFFERED A VERY HARD BLOW (DEFEAT) AND IT IS NOT EASY TO START OVER AND COME TOGETHER; MOREOVER, VIETNAM DOES NOT WANT TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE THE DRV PROFITS FROM ITS VICTORY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. LET THINGS GO ON AND CONTINUE, LET CONGRESS RECONSIDER THE SITUATION, AND THEN SOME REAL DISCUSSION CAN GET UNDERWAY. VIETNAM, HOWEVER, IS NOT GOING TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND PRESS THE U.S. TO NEGOTIATE.

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(classification)

3. IN RECENT TALKS WITH OTHER VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, THE VIETNAMESE VOICED AN APPRECIATION FOR U.S. EXPERIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN OIL EXPLORATION, DRILLING, AND EXTRACTION OF OIL. THE VIETNAMESE KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES ARE AMONG THE BEST, AND THE VIETNAMESE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING U.S. EQUIPMENT AND OIL COMPANIES TO EXPLOIT THEIR OIL RESOURCES. THE VIETNAMESE BELIEVE THAT BY DEALING WITH U.S. OIL COMPANIES THEY WILL ACHIEVE RESULTS MUCH FASTER AND THEY ARE IN A HURRY TO DO SO. THE VIETNAMESE DISLIKE THEIR SITUATION WHEREIN THEY ONLY ARE RECEIVING CREDITS AND FOREIGN AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. THE VIETNAMESE WANT TO STAND UP ON THEIR OWN AND BE INDEPENDENT. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR FEELINGS BY SAYING "WE WANT TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN OUR COUNTRY AND ITS RESOURCES SO WE CAN USE THE RETURN TO PAY OUR LOANS."

4. SOVIET OFFICIALS IN HANOI RECENTLY DISCLOSED THAT THEY HAD FOUND OIL IN THE RED RIVER DELTA NORTH OF HANOI. THE SOVIETS WERE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS ANYTHING FURTHER REGARDING THEIR STRIKE.

COMMENT:

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